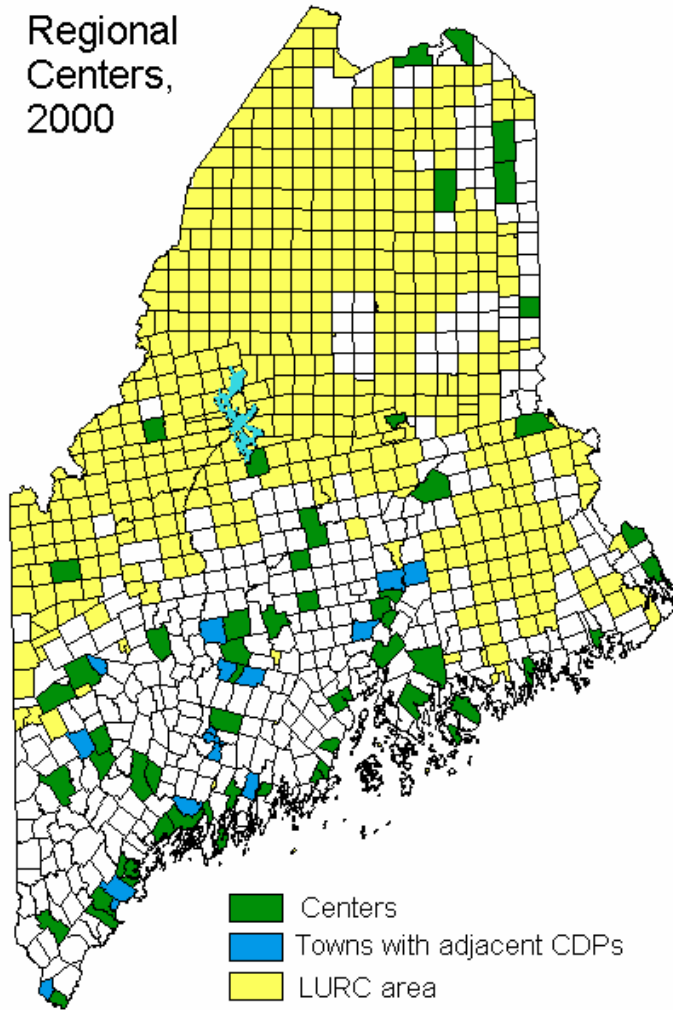


Regional
Centers,
2000



Thinking about regionalism, Maine-style

Three threads of thought

- New England town a model of self-organization
- But losing control of its destiny
- Frugal; so high cost compared with peer states a puzzle

Thoughts...and Principles

- Thought: New England town a model of self-organization
- Principle: Bottom-up regionalism

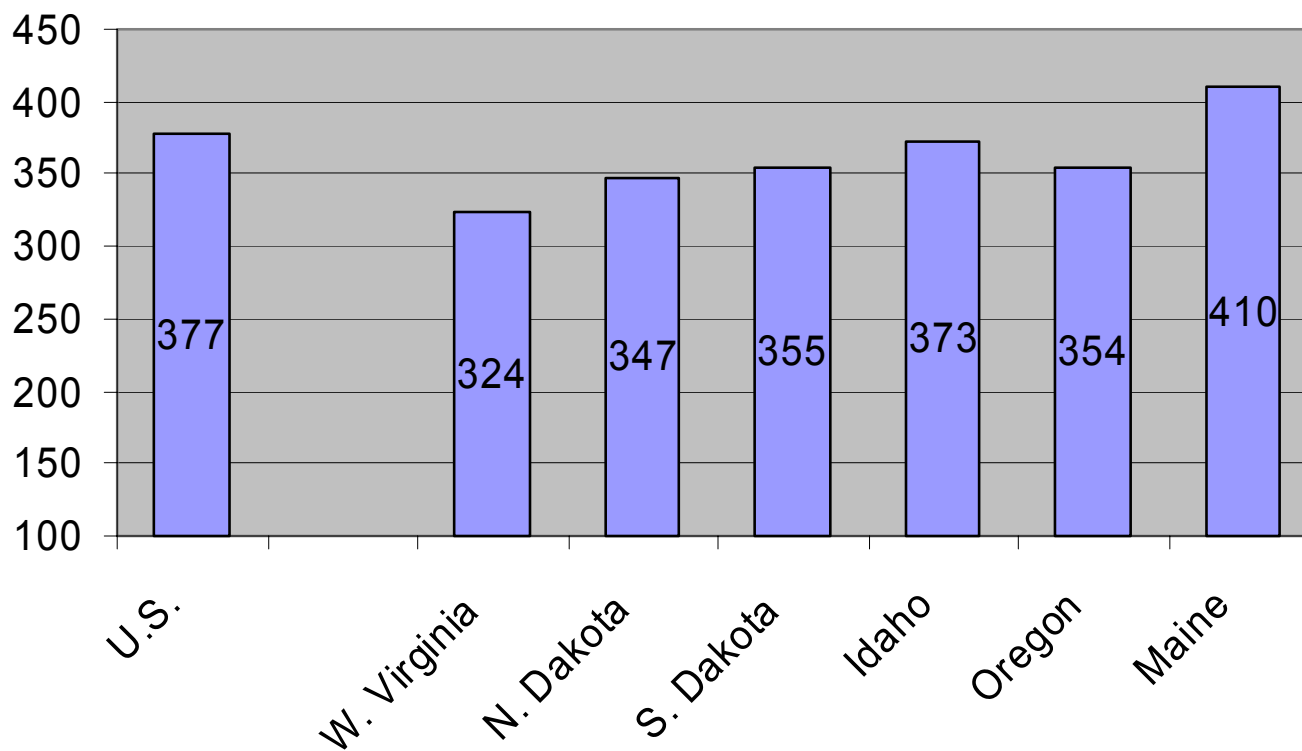
Thoughts...and Principles

- Thought: But losing control of its destiny
- Principle: Adjust geography of local government to match “personal geographies”

Thoughts...and Principles

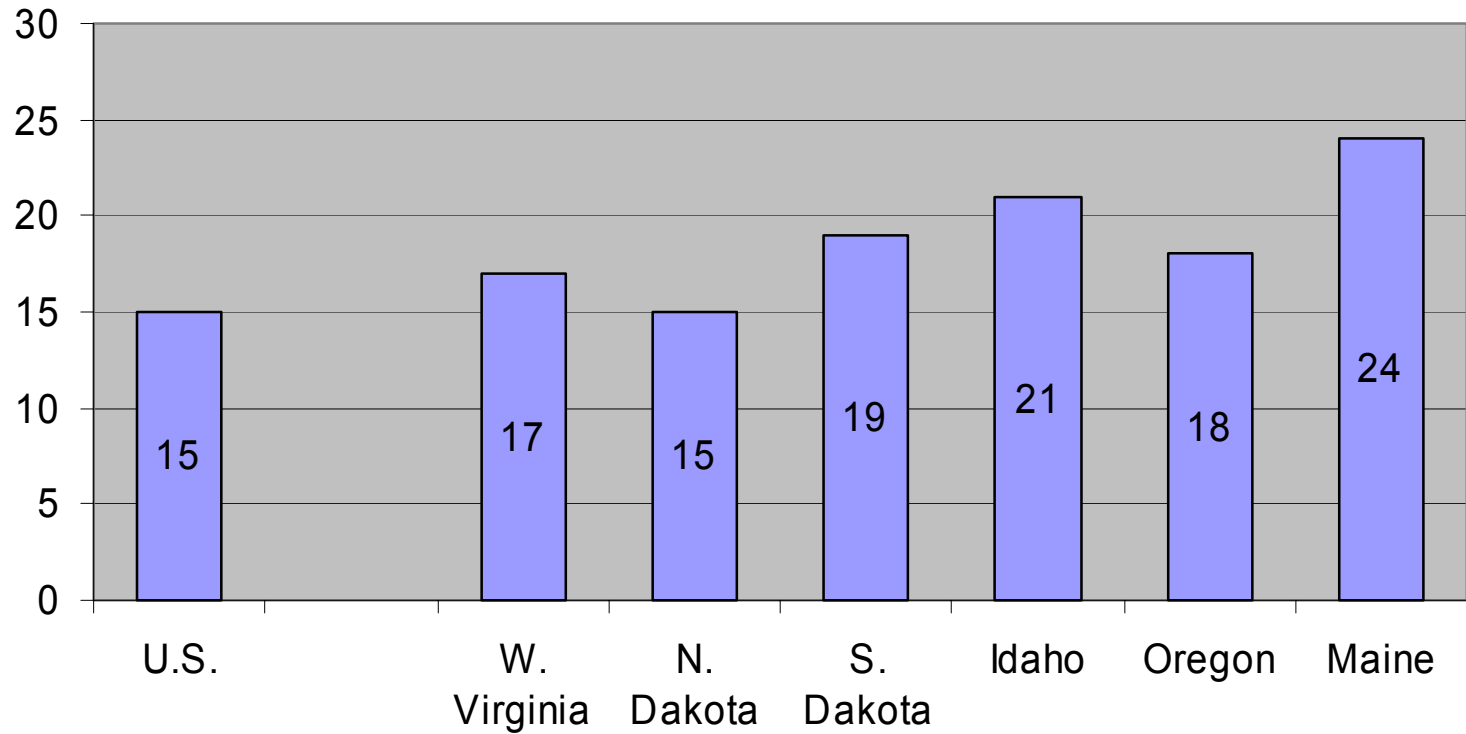
- Thought: Frugal; so why are costs of local government significantly higher than peer states?

Local government FTEs per 10,000 pop.



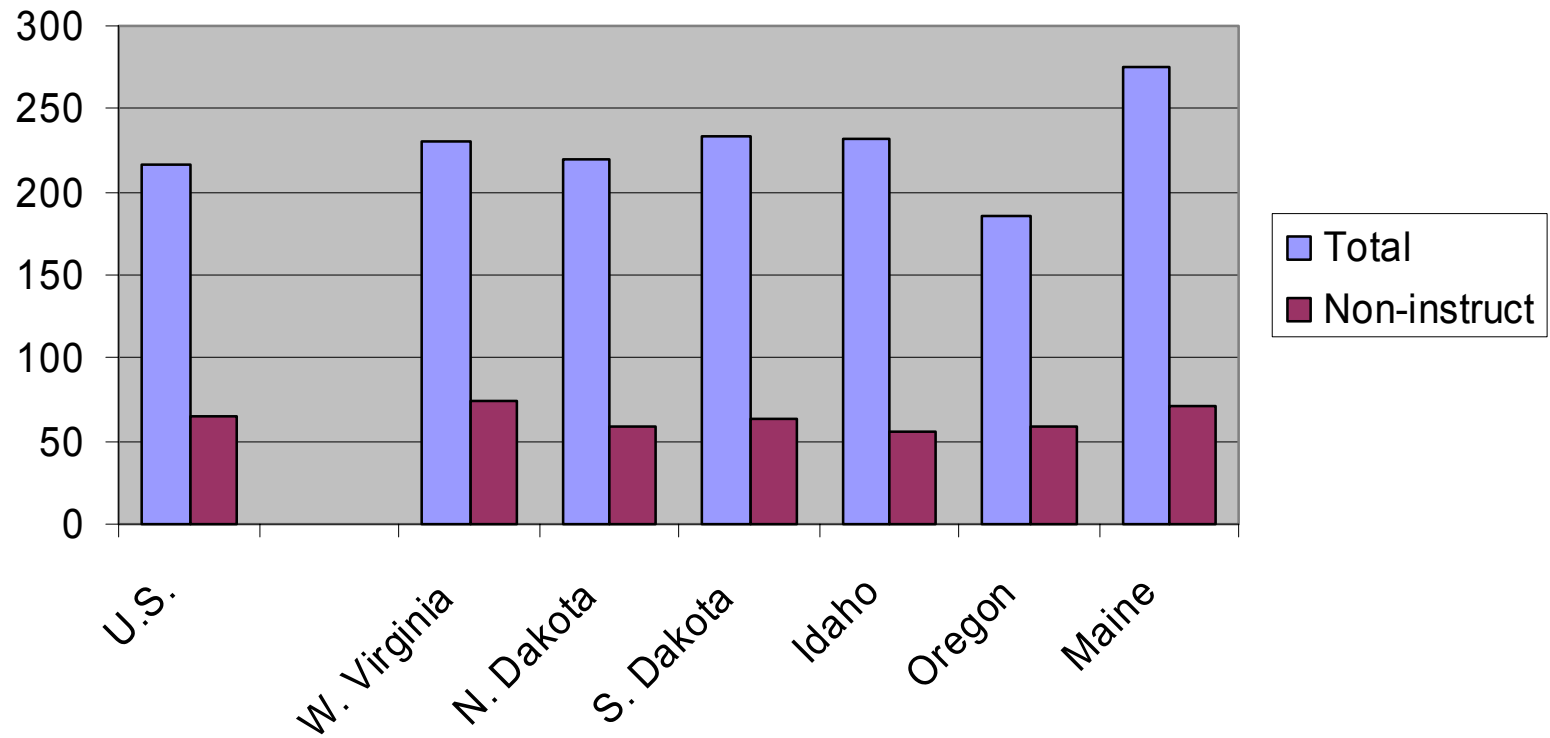
Source: U.S. Census Public Employment Data, 2001

Administrative FTEs (nonschool) per 10,000 pop.

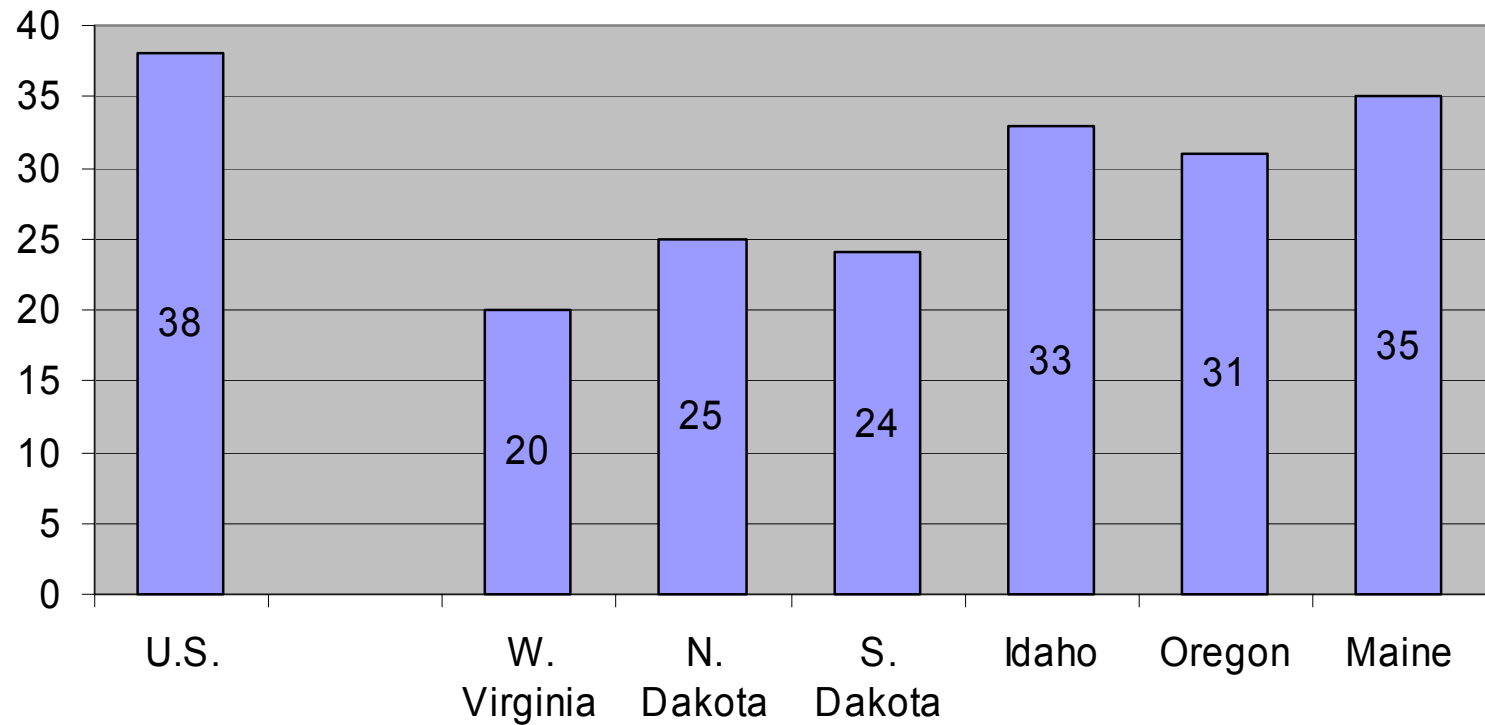


Source: U.S. Census Public Employment Data, 2001

K-12 FTEs per 10,000 pop.

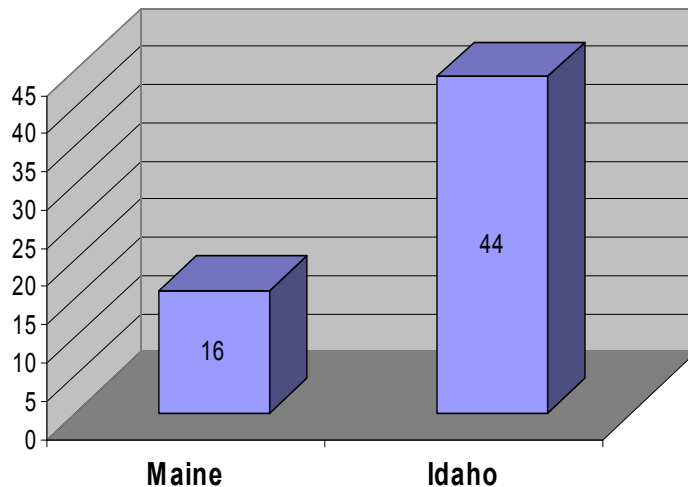


Police and fire FTEs per 10,000 pop.

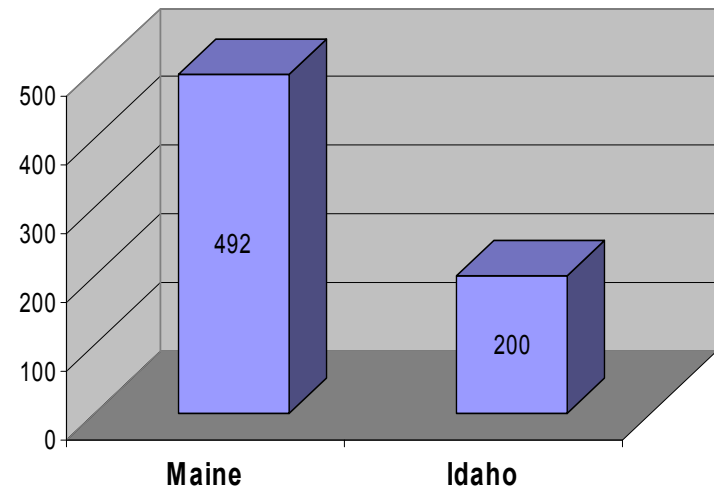


General Purpose Units of Government, Maine versus Idaho (Both approx. 1.3 million population)

Number of Counties, Maine v Idaho



Number of Municipalities, Maine v Idaho



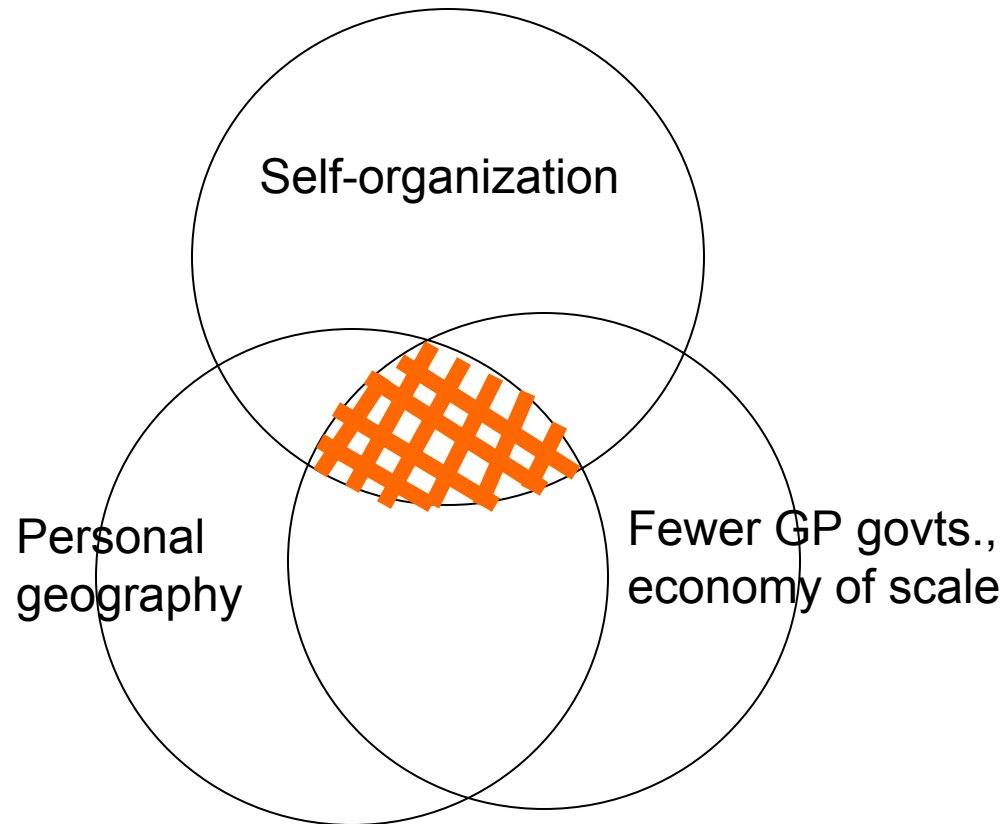
Thoughts...and Principles

- Principle: Reduce the number of general purpose units of government and school districts
- Principle: Economies of scale apply

Desired Outcomes

- Reduce cost of local government, including K-12, by \$125 to \$150 million/yr.
- Maintain services, participatory democracy of local government
- Encourage and direct growth at a regional scale

Finding the sweet spot



More than one option

- Stepped up, single-purpose cooperation/merged school districts
- Associations of municipalities for general purpose government
- Redraw counties into “small” counties, with expanded authority
- Restructure existing counties to serve broader purposes